



News Release

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, April 1, 2004

Utah Department of Health Announces Springtime CHIP Open Enrollment

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) will be accepting applications for CHIP (Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program) during Open Enrollment, **May 3 – May 12, 2004**. Spring is a great time to enroll your kids on CHIP. CHIP gives you the relief of knowing your children have health insurance coverage while they enjoy warm weather sports and activities.

Learn more about CHIP by making a simple call to **1-877-KIDS-NOW** to receive an application by mail or find a UDOH eligibility office in your area. Beginning Monday, May 3, and ending Wednesday, May 12, applications will be accepted in person, online at www.health.utah.gov/chip, or by mail postmarked between May 3 and May 12. The UDOH will accept all eligible Utah children who apply during this Open Enrollment session.

CHIP is a health insurance plan for children funded jointly by the federal and state governments. To receive CHIP, children must qualify based on family size and household income. For example, a family of four earning up to \$37,700 a year may qualify. In addition, children must also be younger than 19, U.S. citizens or legal residents, and not currently covered by health insurance to qualify. Once enrolled on CHIP, families may be required to pay premiums of up to \$25 every three months. Premiums and small co-pays make it possible for CHIP to insure more children.

Since 1998, CHIP has covered nearly 71,000 Utah kids. Today enrollment is at just over 25,000 children. The dates and length of Open Enrollment periods are determined by how many children enroll, the number who leave the program, and available funding.

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“I’m pleased to announce that CHIP will be able to accept new children this spring,” said Scott Williams, M.D., UDOH Executive Director. “As a pediatrician, I know how much it puts parents at ease to have their children covered by health insurance and how much it helps their doctors to be able to provide good health care for them.”

“My son Taylor has asthma,” says Kristi Allred, CHIP mom and CHIP Advisory Council Member. “Having CHIP means Taylor’s asthma is treated so he can play baseball and other sports this spring.”

The UDOH will conduct “A Good Call for Kids” media campaign featuring children who have benefited from CHIP during April and May. Watch and listen for information about CHIP Open Enrollment on TV, in newspapers, and on the radio. Outreach will also be conducted via community partners, including schools, child care agencies, and advocacy groups. For more information, visit www.health.utah.gov/chip or call **1-877-KIDS-NOW**.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

